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ABSTRACT

Four briefs use data from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing to examine housing characteristics of reservation American Indian households. Forty-eight reservations with 500 or more American Indian households were compared to all households in the United States and to nonreservation American Indian households. Data revealed that: (1) American Indian households made up less than half (45%) of all households on reservations; (2) 67 percent of reservation American Indians owned their homes, slightly more than all race groups or nonreservation American Indians; (3) homeownership rates for reservation American Indians rose steadily with age; (4) only 16 percent of reservation American Indian householders were 65 years of age or older; (5) a higher proportion of American Indian householders under age 35 lived off reservations, possibly due to younger American Indians leaving reservations because of poor employment and educational opportunities, as well as lack of housing; (6) reservation American Indian households contained a median of 3.65 persons; (7) the typical reservation home had only 4.4 rooms, nearly a whole room less than the national median; (8) nearly one-third of reservation homes were overcrowded; (9) over one-fourth of reservation American Indian homeowners lacked complete plumbing; (10) reservation American Indian households were far more likely than the typical U.S. household to live in new housing units; (11) 14 percent of reservation American Indians lived in mobile homes; (12) American Indian homes on reservations were much more likely to lack complete kitchen facilities; (13) the majority of American Indian homes on reservations did not have a telephone; (14) 22 percent of American Indian reservation households were without a motor vehicle; and (15) the most commonly used heating fuel on American Indian reservation homes was wood. The data is presented in numerous graphs and tables. (LP)

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ED 392 565

Bureau of the Census **Statistical Brief**

Housing of American Indians on Reservations — An Overview

In 1990, nearly 1 in every 4 American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts lived on a reservation. These reservation residents faced much different housing conditions than other Americans. And conditions differed tremendously among the individual reservations.

One of a series, this Brief uses data collected in the 1990 Census of Population and Housing to examine housing characteristics of American Indian households on reservations and their associated trust lands. The term "American Indian households" includes all housing units where the householder has identified himself or herself as American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut.

This Brief looks at various occupancy characteristics of these households, such as householder's age and tenure, the number of persons, the chances of their being crowded, and mobility. They are compared to all households, as well as to American Indian households *not* living on reservations.

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

There are 314 reservations and trust lands in the United States. Trust lands are property associated with a particular American Indian reservation or tribe, held in trust by the Federal Government. In this Brief, the term "reservation" also includes trust lands.

Most live in the Rocky Mountain States.

The Mountain Division is comprised of eight Rocky Mountain States — New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Although these States contained only 5 percent of all households in the United States, they were home to 63 percent of all American Indian households on reservations. A major reason was the presence of the Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, which spans portions of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. This reservation alone accounted for over one-quarter of all American Indian households on reservations. California, by comparison, was home to a relatively paltry one-ninth of all U.S. households.

As the table on page 2 shows, there were 48 large reservations (500 or more American Indian households).

American Indian households made up less than half of all households on reservations.

There were about 250,000 households of all race groups living on reservations and trust lands. Surprisingly, the majority of them (128,000) were White. Only 112,000 (45 percent) had an American Indian householder. Yet

In 1990, American Indian Reservation Households Were as Large as Those in the United States in the Early Part of This Century

Median number of persons per household

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Reservation Recap — Occupancy Characteristics

Selected occupancy characteristics of American Indian households on reservations, by reservation with 500 or more American Indian households: 1990

	Number of American Indian households	Percent of all households on reservation	Percent who owned their home	Percent with householder who was elderly	Percent with householder under age 35	Median number of persons in household	Median number of rooms in housing unit	Percent who lived in crowded homes
All reservations and trust lands	**112,209**	**44.9**	**67.3**	**15.6**	**29.6**	**3.65**	**4.4**	**32.5**
Acoma Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	586	96.5	91.6	20.1	20.5	4.19	4.6	31.1
Blackfeet Reservation, MT	1,872	80.2	51.8	13.6	32.3	3.52	4.7	19.8
Cattaraugus Reservation, NY	677	95.6	70.5	20.4	28.8	2.77	4.9	10.8
Cheyenne River Reservation, SD	1,293	55.0	33.6	13.3	35.4	3.63	4.4	30.5
Colorado River Reservation, AZ-CA	652	24.5	64.3	14.7	29.1	3.55	4.3	26.4
Colville Reservation, WA	1,196	49.9	58.1	16.6	30.6	2.89	5.1	8.2
Crow Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	1,077	64.3	60.6	10.6	25.6	4.25	4.9	30.9
Devils Lake Sioux Reservation, ND	627	64.5	40.0	10.7	36.8	4.09	4.7	31.7
Eastern Cherokee Reservation, NC	1,786	84.9	80.9	16.3	28.7	2.89	5.1	8.8
Flathead Reservation, MT	1,732	22.0	60.3	13.0	31.7	2.81	5.0	9.2
Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	2,232	90.0	70.7	9.4	37.8	4.17	4.3	43.2
Fort Belknap Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	656	91.6	54.4	16.8	31.7	3.48	5.0	13.6
Fort Berthold Reservation, ND	848	48.2	44.8	12.0	30.5	3.28	4.8	18.8
Fort Hall Reservation and Trust Lands, ID	832	55.5	76.0	14.2	28.0	3.42	4.8	19.7
Fort Peck Reservation, MT	1,591	46.2	48.8	10.1	37.3	3.43	5.2	13.8
Gila River Reservation, AZ	2,295	94.5	67.1	12.8	33.5	3.70	4.0	36.5
Hoopa Valley Reservation, CA	535	77.5	63.4	17.0	33.3	3.01	4.7	13.8
Hopi Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ	1,724	92.4	80.0	21.6	22.4	3.89	3.8	44.4
Isleta Pueblo, NM	831	93.6	91.7	20.8	22.9	3.07	4.8	17.4
Jicarilla Apache Reservation, NM	607	86.5	59.8	9.2	36.4	3.68	4.5	26.4
Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Trust Lands, WI	523	65.7	38.0	14.9	35.8	3.30	5.0	9.9
Laguna Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	1,007	95.7	76.2	24.9	19.0	3.36	4.7	20.7
Lake Traverse (Sisseton) Reservation, ND-SD	739	19.2	28.8	15.8	28.1	3.42	5.0	16.2
Leech Lake Reservation, MN	999	32.4	61.4	16.8	31.4	3.16	4.8	12.3
Menominee Reservation, WI	824	91.5	57.6	15.2	35.1	3.68	5.1	17.2
Mescalero Apache Reservation, NM	595	91.1	29.4	8.4	42.4	4.14	5.3	21.3
Mississippi Choctaw Reservation and Trust Lands, MS	892	95.0	64.9	10.0	30.4	4.26	4.8	30.7
Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ-NM-UT	34,086	94.0	78.3	17.6	27.0	4.01	3.1	54.3
Nez Perce Reservation, ID	581	9.5	68.3	12.7	28.9	3.09	5.3	7.7
Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Trust Lands, MT-SD	880	84.2	63.0	10.1	34.9	3.75	4.6	30.1
Oneida (West) Reservation, WI	707	12.3	63.5	18.1	29.8	3.18	5.1	9.2
Osage Reservation, OK	1,931	12.6	76.3	22.5	25.1	2.49	5.2	4.8
Papago Reservation, AZ	2,086	95.4	74.4	16.5	25.5	3.83	3.7	43.0
Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ	525	96.2	51.2	4.6	44.6	4.29	5.2	23.8
Pine Ridge Reservation and Trust Lands, NE-SD	2,352	85.5	44.6	15.2	26.5	4.36	4.0	47.5
Red Lake Reservation, MN	928	96.7	63.0	12.8	33.2	3.72	4.8	24.5
Rosebud Reservation and Trust Lands, SD	1,924	75.7	42.7	13.1	33.9	3.86	4.5	30.0
St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, NY	625	98.6	89.8	21.0	26.7	2.97	5.1	7.4
Salt River Reservation, AZ	855	54.0	69.9	11.2	34.7	3.81	4.0	39.2
San Carlos Reservation, AZ	1,634	95.8	67.3	10.2	32.6	4.17	4.2	42.5
Standing Rock Reservation, ND-SD	1,133	48.7	28.2	13.0	30.5	3.89	4.6	31.0
Turtle Mountain Reservation and Trust Lands, ND-SD	1,982	95.0	58.6	13.8	36.8	3.21	4.8	13.5
Uintah and Ouray Reservation, UT	651	13.2	63.9	12.7	33.2	3.71	4.8	23.5
Warm Springs Reservation and Trust Lands, OR	675	89.9	60.9	8.9	34.5	3.95	5.0	22.7
White Earth Reservation, MN	816	27.2	61.0	18.6	27.9	3.06	4.8	14.6
Wind River Reservation, WY	1,474	19.7	57.9	11.6	31.3	3.72	4.7	22.7
Yakima Reservation and Trust Lands, WA	1,571	19.8	53.2	14.1	30.5	3.72	5.0	23.1
Zuni Pueblo, AZ-NM	1,465	88.9	79.1	15.3	28.6	4.47	5.2	28.9

American Indians made up *more than* half (437,000, or 54 percent) of all 808,000 *persons* on reservations. This is due to the fact American Indian reservation households were relatively large (see graph on page 1 and discussion of household size later in this Brief).

Homeownership rates on reservations were generally high ....

Two in three (67 percent) of all American Indian households on reservations owned their homes. This was slightly higher than the 64 percent for all race groups nationally and much higher than the 51 percent recorded by American Indian households *not* on reservations.

It's worth noting that some large reservations had much higher rates than others. The highest rates were generally found in the Southwest. For example, the Isleta Pueblo and Acoma Pueblo and Trust Lands, both in New Mexico, had American Indian homeownership rates of over 90 percent. The lowest rates, by and large, were found in the Dakotas. The Standing Rock Reservation and the Lake Traverse (Sisseton) Reservation, which both occupy parts of North and South Dakota, had rates under 30 percent. (See table.)

.... and rose with age.

Interestingly, homeownership rates for American Indian householders on reservations rose steadily with age, from 41 percent for those under 25 years to 82 percent for those 75 years and over. For householders nationally, on the other hand, the rate started at only 17 percent, peaked at 80 percent (for those aged 55-64), then dropped off to 70 percent (for persons aged 75 or older).

Elderly households were less common ....

Only 16 percent of American Indian householders on reservations were 65 years of age or older. For the United States as a whole, the corresponding figure was 22 percent. Incidentally, an even smaller proportion (12 percent) of American Indian householders *not* on reservations were elderly.

Again, there were large variations among the bigger individual reservations. On one hand, only 5 percent of the Pascua Yaqui, AZ, American Indian householders were elderly. At the other extreme was the Laguna Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM, where one-quarter were 65 or older. In fact, this was the only larger reservation where elderly American Indian householders outnumbered young ones (under age 35). The Osage Reservation, OK, by the way, was the only other where the percentage of elderly American Indian householders (23 percent) exceeded the national average (22 percent). (See table.)

.... while younger householders were more prevalent.

At the other end of the age continuum, almost 30 percent of American Indian householders on reservations were under 35 years of age. For the United States as a whole, 27 percent were in this age group. An even higher proportion of American Indian householders *off* reservations (34 percent) were under age 35. This may be a sign that many younger American Indians are leaving reservations. Better employment and educational opportunities off reservations, as well as the lack of housing on reservations, are possible reasons.

The table shows the percentages of elderly and young American Indian householders on each of the larger reservations.

American Indian households on reservations were large ....

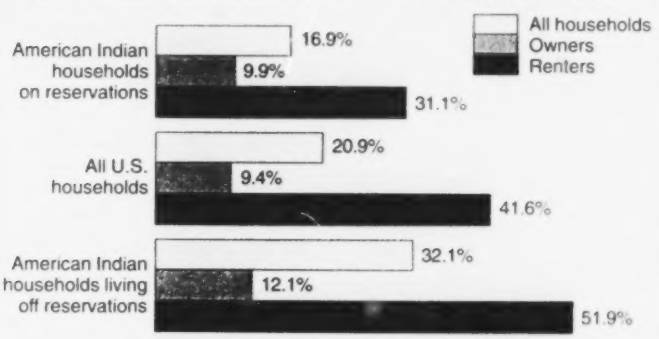
American Indian households on reservations contained a median of 3.65 persons. This was considerably higher than the 2.29 for all households nationally and the 2.62 for American Indian households off reservations. It's also similar to the U.S. median in the early part of this century (see graph on the first page.)

When we examine household size by tenure, we see that American Indians on reservations were very much unlike other households. American Indian reservation households who owned their homes had a median of 3.63 persons; but renters had 3.71. For households in the United States as a whole, the opposite was true (2.40 for owners and 2.04 for

Were American Indian Households on Reservations More Mobile Than the Norm?

No. But American Indian households who did not live on reservations were very mobile. Why? Renters and young householders move frequently. American Indians on reservations tend to own their homes, while those off reservations were frequently renters and were younger.

Percent of all households who moved in the 15 months prior to the 1990 census



renters). American Indian households not living on reservations had sizes intermediate between the two (2.78 for owners and 2.47 for renters).

Once more, we see sharp differences when looking at the large individual reservations. Although none had household sizes as low as the 2.29 persons nationally, the Osage Reservation, at 2.49, came closest. The Zuni Pueblo, AZ-NM, on the other hand, had the largest median household size — 4.47 persons. (See table.)

.... but lived in small homes.

The typical American Indian home on a reservation had only 4.4 rooms, nearly a whole room less than the national median (5.3).

On the larger reservations, home sizes varied from a mere 3.1 rooms (Navajo, AZ-NM-UT) to the national median of 5.3 (Mescalero Apache, NM, and Nez Perce, ID). Unlike the case nationally, American Indian owners and renters on reservations had the same median number of rooms (see graph below). By reservation, owner-occupied homes varied from only 2.8 rooms (Navajo) to 5.6 (Lake Traverse, ND-SD). Renter-occupied homes differed from 3.0 rooms (Hopi, AZ) to 5.3 (Mescalero Apache, NM); two others (Menominee, WI, and Pascua Yaqui, AZ) were right behind at 5.2 rooms.

Large households plus small homes equals crowding.

Homes are generally considered crowded if they contain more than one person per room. Nationally, 5 percent of all households were crowded in 1990. This percentage was much lower than the approximately 20 percent back in 1940 — the year of the first housing census. But the national conditions of a half-century ago were nothing compared to what American Indian households on reservations face today. In 1990, an astounding *one-third* of them were crowded!

When it came to "severe" crowding (more than 1.5 persons per room), American Indian households on reservations were also way above the 1990 national average (18 percent compared with 2 percent).

American Indian owner households were somewhat worse off than those with renters (34 percent were crowded and 20 percent were severely crowded versus 30 percent and 13 percent for renters).

Arizona reservations had the worst crowding.

Of the eight reservations where more than one-third of American Indian households lived in crowded conditions, seven were wholly or partly in Arizona. The Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ-NM-UT, at an incredible 54 percent, had the highest rate of crowding (see table). Severely crowded housing followed the same basic pattern; here, the Navajo stood at 38 percent.

Most Americans would be very surprised to learn that such housing conditions exist in the United States in this day and age. Yet, on many reservations, crowded and severely crowded housing is a fact of life.

More information:

- *General Housing Characteristics, American Indian and Alaska Native Areas*, Series 1990 CH-1-1A. For sale by U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). Stock No. 003-024-07560-1, $35.
- *Detailed Housing Characteristics, American Indian and Alaska Native Areas*, Series 1990 CH-2-1A. For sale by GPO. Stock No. 003-024-07623-3, $44.

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This Brief is one of a series that presents information of current interest. It examines data from the 1990 census. A complete description of statistical quality and limitations is included in the above-mentioned reports.

American Indian Renters on Reservations Had as Many Rooms in Their Homes as Owners

Median number of rooms in housing unit: 1990

Data for Smaller Reservations

Due to space constraints, the table on page 2 has data only for the 48 reservations with 500 or more American Indian households. To obtain data for reservations not shown, call Robert Bonnette (301-763-8553).

Bureau of the Census

Statistical Brief

Housing of American Indians on Reservations — Plumbing

Most Americans take indoor plumbing for granted. But American Indians living on reservations can't. As the graph below shows, their households were as likely to lack complete plumbing facilities (hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet, and a bathtub or shower) in 1990 as all U.S. households were *in the 1950's*!

This Brief, one of a series, uses data collected in the 1990 Census of Population and Housing to examine housing characteristics of American Indian households on reservations and their associated trust lands. (The term "American Indian households" includes all units where the householder has identified himself or herself as American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut.) This Brief investigates not only their chances of lacking complete plumbing, but also their source of water and method of sewage disposal. It compares them with both American Indian households living off reservations and all households in the United States.

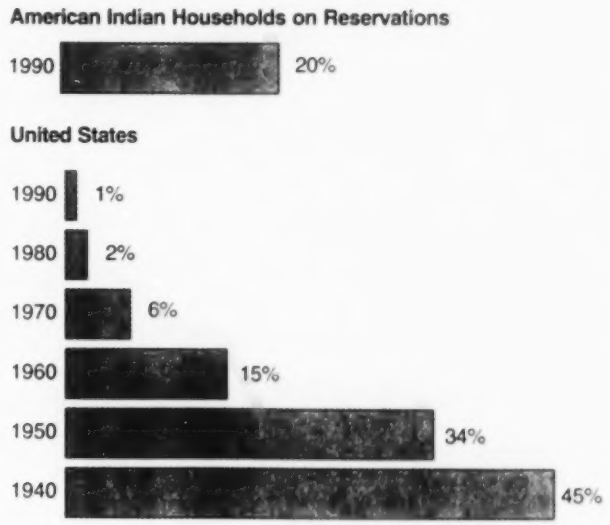
There are 314 reservations and trust lands in the United States. Trust lands are property associated with a particular American Indian reservation or tribe, held in trust by the Federal Government. In this Brief, the term "reservation" also includes trust lands.

Most American Indian households on reservations obtained their water from public systems or private companies ....

Public systems or private companies supplied water to about 7 in every 10 American Indian reservation households. (See graph on page 4.)

American Indian Reservation Households of 1990 Were as Likely as U.S. Households of the 1950's to Lack Complete Indoor Plumbing

Percent of households lacking complete plumbing facilities



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Reservation Recap — Plumbing

Plumbing characteristics of American Indian households living on reservations, by reservation with 500 or more American Indian households: 1990

	Percent receiving water from —			Percent disposing of sewage by —			Percent lacking complete plumbing facilities —	
	Public system or private company	Individual well	Some other source	Public sewer	Septic tank or cesspool	Other means	Total	And crowded[1] as well
All reservations and trust lands	**70.3**	**22.8**	**7.0**	**48.2**	**33.4**	**18.4**	**20.2**	**11.3**
Acoma Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	88.0	8.7	3.3	50.0	44.0	6.0	12.5	4.3
Blackfeet Reservation, MT	72.5	24.2	3.3	71.9	24.8	3.3	1.8	0.0
Cattaraugus Reservation, NY	7.8	80.1	12.2	7.3	81.0	11.7	13.4	0.9
Cheyenne River Reservation, SD	90.1	5.0	4.9	71.8	17.3	10.9	10.6	5.4
Colorado River Reservation, AZ–CA	78.0	20.9	1.1	50.1	47.6	2.4	1.9	0.0
Colville Reservation, WA	58.9	37.6	3.5	47.4	52.3	0.3	0.5	0.3
Crow Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	51.5	43.3	5.1	50.8	39.8	9.4	3.3	1.0
Devils Lake Sioux Reservation, ND	52.3	46.3	1.4	51.2	46.0	2.9	2.9	0.6
Eastern Cherokee Reservation, NC	42.9	31.1	26.0	35.2	58.5	6.3	1.1	0.0
Flathead Reservation, MT	58.2	34.8	7.1	49.5	48.0	2.6	0.7	0.0
Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	91.6	2.2	6.2	75.2	14.5	10.3	14.5	5.1
Fort Belknap Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	62.8	34.5	2.7	60.0	38.0	2.0	2.3	0.8
Fort Berthold Reservation, ND	72.5	24.4	3.1	70.4	25.3	4.2	3.7	0.0
Fort Hall Reservation and Trust Lands, ID	26.6	70.7	2.7	26.6	65.1	8.3	5.4	1.3
Fort Peck Reservation, MT	83.5	15.4	1.2	83.3	13.9	2.7	0.6	0.6
Gila River Reservation, AZ	97.6	2.4	0.0	46.9	43.6	9.4	18.0	8.6
Hoopa Valley Reservation, CA	76.5	10.6	12.9	0.9	97.2	1.9	3.9	0.7
Hopi Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ	76.5	7.7	15.8	46.5	10.5	43.0	46.7	29.4
Isleta Pueblo, NM	97.8	1.9	0.2	59.8	40.2	0.0	2.2	0.1
Jicarilla Apache Reservation, NM	91.6	4.6	3.8	81.2	10.9	7.9	8.2	4.1
Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Trust Lands, WI	56.0	43.6	0.4	7.4	87.9	4.7	0.8	0.0
Laguna Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	95.8	2.6	1.7	78.1	20.1	1.8	7.5	2.3
Lake Traverse (Sisseton) Reservation, ND–SD	79.3	20.1	0.5	62.4	37.3	0.3	0.9	0.0
Leech Lake Reservation, MN	34.8	64.4	0.8	27.3	69.7	3.1	3.1	0.0
Menominee Reservation, WI	59.3	39.7	1.1	54.4	43.5	2.0	3.0	0.2
Mescalero Apache Reservation, NM	91.5	3.8	4.7	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.7	0.3
Mississippi Choctaw Reservation and Trust Lands, MS	99.3	0.7	0.0	55.6	43.5	0.9	5.2	2.6
Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ–NM–UT	64.2	22.3	13.4	36.4	18.1	45.5	49.1	29.8
Nez Perce Reservation, ID	66.4	32.3	1.4	63.3	35.6	1.0	0.7	0.0
Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Trust Lands, MT–SD	60.8	39.2	0.0	61.3	37.7	1.0	2.0	0.9
Oneida (West) Reservation, WI	38.7	60.9	0.4	30.7	66.1	3.2	0.6	0.4
Osage Reservation, OK	89.2	8.6	2.2	61.8	37.2	1.0	1.1	0.0
Papago Reservation, AZ	77.6	21.1	1.3	36.0	32.5	31.5	32.0	18.8
Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.0	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
Pine Ridge Reservation and Trust Lands, NE–SD	55.8	39.6	4.6	51.8	26.9	21.2	20.9	12.2
Red Lake Reservation, MN	47.8	48.2	4.0	28.6	66.6	4.8	4.8	0.3
Rosebud Reservation and Trust Lands, SD	74.2	24.7	1.1	69.4	25.9	4.6	7.2	3.0
St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, NY	54.6	42.4	3.0	1.4	97.8	0.8	8.4	0.8
Salt River Reservation, AZ	93.5	2.9	3.6	19.0	67.6	13.4	17.9	6.0
San Carlos Reservation, AZ	92.7	2.0	5.3	74.0	12.7	13.3	21.6	10.6
Standing Rock Reservation, ND–SD	80.2	15.7	4.1	77.1	16.5	6.4	9.2	1.5
Turtle Mountain Reservation and Trust Lands, ND–SD	91.0	5.9	3.1	47.2	47.6	5.2	7.0	0.5
Uintah and Ouray Reservation, UT	85.5	11.0	3.5	56.6	42.2	1.2	2.7	0.0
Warm Springs Reservation and Trust Lands, OR	89.8	8.3	2.0	77.4	20.0	2.6	2.6	0.3
White Earth Reservation, MN	45.5	52.9	1.6	37.2	61.3	1.4	3.0	0.6
Wind River Reservation, WY	62.8	34.0	3.1	34.3	61.6	4.1	4.8	1.0
Yakima Reservation and Trust Lands, WA	38.3	61.4	0.3	39.4	58.8	1.7	1.5	0.0
Zuni Pueblo, AZ–NM	94.6	0.6	4.8	91.9	6.0	2.1	6.2	2.5

[1]Crowded means more than 1 person per room.

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But this rate differed greatly among the larger reservations (those with 500 or more American Indian households). For example, virtually all American Indian households on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ, and the Mississippi Choctaw Reservation and Trust Lands, MS, got their water from public systems or private companies. On some reservations, however, like the Cattaraugus, NY, these sources were rare. (See table on page 2.)

.... but just under half were connected to a public sewer.

This was far lower than the 76 percent of all U.S. households and the 72 percent of American Indian households living off reservations. It should be noted, though, that most reservations were located outside metropolitan areas, where public sewers were less common. So a fairer comparison might be with only all U.S. housing *outside metro areas*. When we look at things this way, we see that the rates were the same (just under 50 percent for both American Indian reservation households and nonmetro U.S. housing units).

Again, the situation varied tremendously from one reservation to another. On the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ, for example, virtually all American Indian homes were connected to a public sewer. But on Hoopa Valley, CA and St. Regis Mohawk, NY, almost none were. (See table.)

About 1 in 5 American Indian reservation households disposed of sewage by means *other than* public sewer, septic tank, or cesspool ....

Outhouses, chemical toilets, and facilities in another structure are a few examples of what may be used instead. In contrast, only 1 percent of all households nationally used other means to dispose of sewage. (See graph at right.) Even for housing units outside metro areas, this proportion was only 3 percent, the same as that for American Indian households living off reservations.

On the larger reservations, the chances that American Indian households used other means ranged from near or above *40 percent* (on the Navajo, AZ-NM-UT; and Hopi, AZ) to below the U.S. average of 1 percent (on the Colville, WA; Isleta Pueblo, NM; Mescalero Apache, NM; and Pascua Yaqui, AZ). (See table.)

.... and about 1 in 5 lacked complete plumbing facilities in their homes.

Once again, this was a condition almost unknown nationally, where fewer than 1 percent of all households were so inconvenienced. Even U.S. households outside metro areas had a rate below 2 percent. American Indian households off reservations had a percentage only slightly higher (about 3 percent).

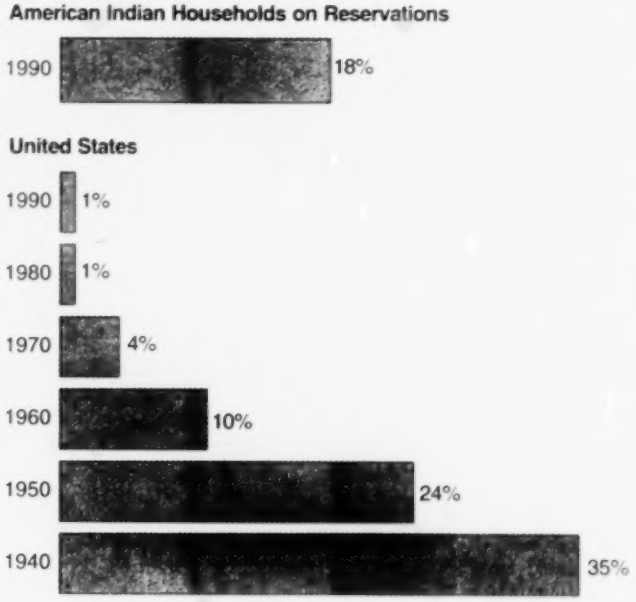
The two larger reservations with the highest rates were, again, the Navajo and the Hopi, where around *one-half* of American Indian households lacked complete plumbing. (See table.)

The situation was even worse for owners.

Just over one-quarter of American Indian homeowners living on reservations lacked complete plumbing, much higher than the 8 percent of their renter counterparts. The situation for all households nationally was the opposite — renters were likelier than owners to lack plumbing. In fact, every housing census since the first in 1940 has shown this to be the case.

American Indian Reservation Households' Sewage Disposal Situation Also Resembles That of the United States in the 1950's

Percent of households using a means of sewage disposal other than a public sewer, septic tank, or cesspool



Note: Data for the U.S. prior to 1970 were estimated based on units reporting no flush toilet.

When it comes to the prevalence of homes without complete indoor plumbing, visiting a reservation today is like going back in time. The 26 percent of American Indian owners on reservations lacking complete plumbing in 1990 was comparable to the 30 percent of all U.S. owners in 1950. The 1990 rate for American Indian reservation renters, meanwhile, was identical to that of all U.S. renters in 1970.

Incidentally, no one had it as tough as Navajo owners. Remarkably, about *6 in every 10* did not have complete plumbing!

Many experienced the worst-case scenario — lacking complete plumbing *and* living in crowded housing.

Imagine living in a home that not only lacks complete plumbing, but also has more residents than rooms. If you're like most Americans today, it's difficult. Only one-tenth of 1 percent of U.S. households lived in such conditions in 1990.

However, more than 1 in every 10 American Indian households on reservations lived in such housing conditions. Another way of looking at this is that American Indian reservation households comprised only 1 in every 1,000 U.S. households, yet constituted 250 in every 1,000 who lived in homes that simultaneously lacked complete plumbing and were crowded. On the populous Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ-NM-UT and the Hopi Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ, approximately 3 in 10 American Indian households lived in such housing. But on many reservations, these conditions were as rare as they were in the United States as a whole. (See table.)

Once again, owners fared worse.

About 15 percent of American Indian owners on reservations resided in crowded homes that lacked complete plumbing. These owners accounted for about one-fifth of all such owners in the United States.

Of all reservations, the Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands had the largest number of American Indian owners who faced these conditions (9,200). The Navajo alone accounted for over 80 percent of all American Indian owners on reservations who lived in crowded homes without complete plumbing. By the way, if 9,200 doesn't sound so high, keep in mind that only half as many homeowners in California and New York *combined* lived in such homes!

More information:

Detailed Housing Characteristics, American Indian and Alaska Native Areas, Series 1990 CH-2-1A. For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office. Stock No. 003-024-07623-3, $44.

Contacts:

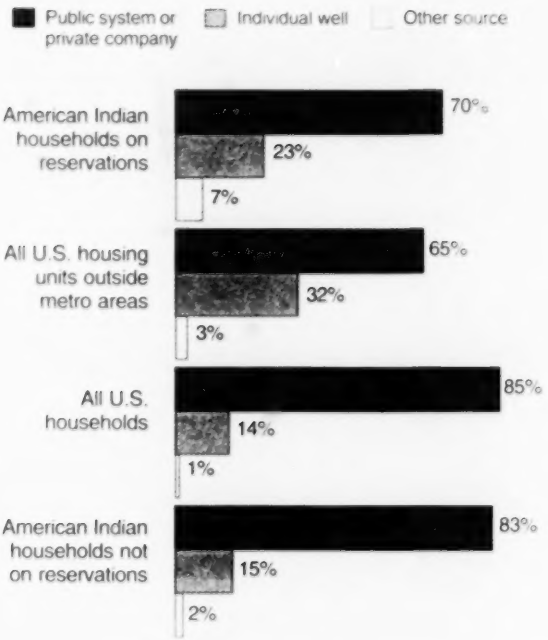
Housing of American Indians on reservations — Robert Bonnette 301-763-8553

Statistical Briefs — Robert Bernstein 301-457-1221

This Brief is one of a series that presents information of current interest. It examines data from the 1990 census. A complete description of statistical quality and limitations is included in the above-mentioned report.

How Households Obtained Water

Percent distribution of housing units, by source of water: 1990



Data for Smaller Reservations

Due to space constraints, the table on page 2 has data only for the 48 reservations with 500 or more American Indian households. To obtain data for reservations not shown, call Robert Bonnette (301-763-8553).

Bureau of the Census **Statistical Brief**

Housing of American Indians on Reservations — Equipment and Fuels

Refrigerators and telephones are two amenities no household can do without, right? Wrong — especially for American Indians living on reservations.

This Brief, one of a series, uses data collected in the 1990 Census of Population and Housing to examine housing characteristics of American Indian households on reservations and their associated trust lands. The term "American Indian households" includes all housing units where the householder has identified himself or herself as American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut.

This Brief looks at the degree to which they lacked complete kitchen facilities, telephones, and motor vehicles. It also examines how they heated their homes. The Brief compares them with both American Indian households not living on reservations and all households in the United States.

There are 314 reservations and trust lands in the United States. Trust lands are property associated with a particular American Indian reservation or tribe, held in trust by the Federal Government. In this Brief, the term "reservation" also includes trust lands.

American Indian homes on reservations were much likelier-than-average to lack complete kitchen facilities.

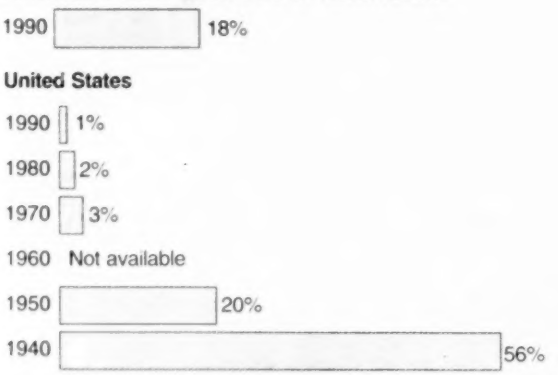
A home is considered to have complete kitchen facilities if it contains a sink with piped water, a range or cookstove, and a refrigerator. In 1990, only 1 percent of households nationally and 3 percent of American Indian households living off reservations were without one or more of these amenities.

In sharp contrast, about 18 percent of American Indian households on reservations didn't have complete kitchens. As the graph below shows, this was similar to the national situation of 40 years earlier.

There was a wide variation in conditions among the larger reser-

American Indian Reservation Households Were as Likely to Lack Complete Kitchen Facilities in 1990 as U.S. Households Were in 1950

Percent of households without complete kitchen facilities



Note: Data for 1940 and 1950 are based on households lacking a refrigerator.

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Reservation Recap — Equipment

Percent of American Indian households on reservations who lacked selected amenities, by reservation with 500 or more American Indian households: 1990

	Percent lacking complete kitchen facilities	Percent without a telephone in their home	Percent without a motor vehicle
All reservations and trust lands	**17.5**	**53.4**	**22.4**
Acoma Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	7.4	30.0	16.8
Blackfeet Reservation, MT	1.7	31.7	13.8
Cattaraugus Reservation, NY	9.6	20.7	22.8
Cheyenne River Reservation, SD	8.7	47.8	26.2
Colorado River Reservation, AZ–CA	1.3	33.4	19.4
Colville Reservation, WA	0.5	27.8	12.6
Crow Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	0.8	54.9	7.7
Devils Lake Sioux Reservation, ND	2.2	57.4	23.0
Eastern Cherokee Reservation, NC	0.5	36.8	15.2
Flathead Reservation, MT	1.7	26.7	9.8
Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	13.1	64.5	41.1
Fort Belknap Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	2.0	43.1	17.8
Fort Berthold Reservation, ND	2.5	43.7	12.8
Fort Hall Reservation and Trust Lands, ID	3.5	30.1	3.1
Fort Peck Reservation, MT	0.1	38.1	15.9
Gila River Reservation, AZ	15.2	77.8	34.5
Hoopa Valley Reservation, CA	4.9	35.8	15.7
Hopi Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ	30.6	49.3	24.0
Isleta Pueblo, NM	1.6	18.5	14.6
Jicarilla Apache Reservation, NM	4.7	50.6	15.7
Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Trust Lands, WI	0.4	38.0	22.4
Laguna Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	7.7	26.0	19.9
Lake Traverse (Sisseton) Reservation, ND–SD	0.9	50.5	32.1
Leech Lake Reservation, MN	2.2	31.6	21.6
Menominee Reservation, WI	1.4	27.9	19.2
Mescalero Apache Reservation, NM	0.5	58.4	29.2
Mississippi Choctaw Reservation and Trust Lands, MS	3.9	66.4	19.5
Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ–NM–UT	44.3	81.6	27.2
Nez Perce Reservation, ID	0.8	30.4	13.0
Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Trust Lands, MT–SD	0.0	61.0	12.3
Oneida (West) Reservation, WI	0.8	17.3	10.5
Osage Reservation, OK	1.1	18.2	8.9
Papago Reservation, AZ	24.8	55.9	47.6
Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ	1.1	26.8	34.4
Pine Ridge Reservation and Trust Lands, NE–SD	18.2	58.6	21.5
Red Lake Reservation, MN	4.0	41.0	18.9
Rosebud Reservation and Trust Lands, SD	4.2	56.2	26.2
St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, NY	5.3	15.9	21.8
Salt River Reservation, AZ	13.3	55.1	25.8
San Carlos Reservation, AZ	16.6	83.9	29.6
Standing Rock Reservation, ND–SD	5.1	56.8	29.6
Turtle Mountain Reservation and Trust Lands, ND–SD	4.6	31.8	19.1
Uintah and Ouray Reservation, UT	3.0	49.1	14.0
Warm Springs Reservation and Trust Lands, OR	2.0	31.6	8.6
White Earth Reservation, MN	2.4	35.3	20.4
Wind River Reservation, WY	2.0	49.3	14.1
Yakima Reservation and Trust Lands, WA	0.5	24.1	12.6
Zuni Pueblo, AZ–NM	5.2	32.6	19.4

Data for Smaller Reservations

Due to space constraints, the tables in this Brief have data only for the 48 reservations with 500 or more American Indian households. To obtain data for reservations not shown, call Robert Bonnette (301-763-8553).

vations (those with 500 or more American Indian households). On one hand was the Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ-NM-UT, where 44 percent of American Indian households lacked complete kitchen facilities. (The rate also exceeded 20 percent on two other Arizona reservations — the Hopi and Papago). At the other extreme were several reservations where the rate was either equal to or below the U.S. average. The Northern Cheyenne, MT-SD and Fort Peck, MT were two examples. (See table at left.)

On reservations, phoneless households were the rule ....

Remarkably, the majority of American Indian homes on reservations (53 percent) did *not* have a telephone. This was true for only 5 percent of all households nationally. Since most reservations are located outside metropolitan areas, however, a fairer comparison is probably with all nonmetro U.S. households only. Their rate was 9 percent.

As the table at left shows, phonelessness was a relatively widespread condition on each of the larger reservations. Especially bad off were three wholly or partly in Arizona — Gila River, Navajo, and San Carlos. On each one, approximately *three-quarters* of American Indian households were phoneless!

.... but vehicleless households were not.

They may not have had a phone at home, but at least most American Indian reservation households could drive to one. Only 22 percent were without a motor vehicle. Nevertheless, this was still higher than the 16 percent of American Indian households not on reservations and the 12 percent of all U.S. households without a vehicle.

Again, rates varied tremendously from one larger reservation to another. On the Fort Apache and Papago Reservations in Arizona, for example, over one-third of American Indian households lacked a vehicle. But on many other reservations, the vehicleless rate for American Indian households was either at or below the U.S. average. These included the Crow Reservation and Trust Lands, MT; Fort Hall Reservation and Trust Lands, ID; Osage Reservation, OK; and Warm Springs Reservation and Trust Lands, OR. (See table on page 2.)

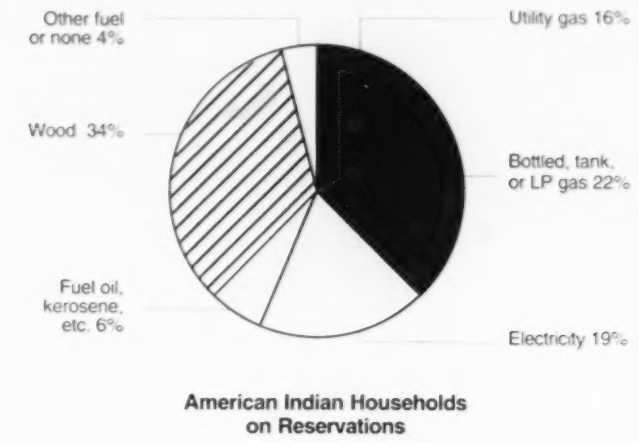
The most commonly used home heating fuel was wood.

Although rarely used nationally, wood was used to heat 1 in every 3 American Indian homes on reservations in 1990. Bottled, tank, or LP gas and electricity, at 22 percent and 19 percent, respectively, were the next most commonly used fuels. Meanwhile, utility gas, the leading fuel nationally, checked in at a meager 16 percent on reservations. (See graph at right.)

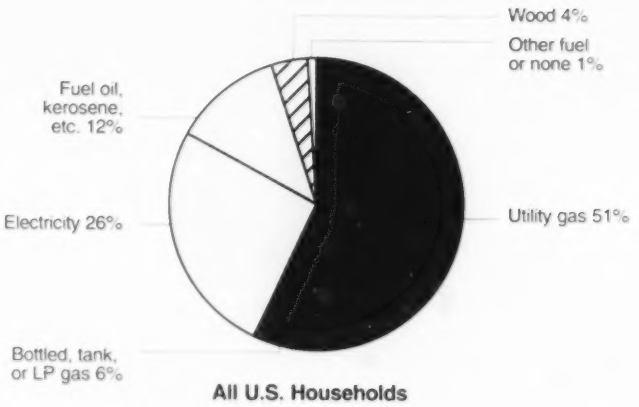
When was wood last used as widely at the national level as it is today on reservations? The answer is sometime before World War II. The Census Bureau didn't collect data on home heating fuel used until the first housing census, taken in 1940. That census revealed that a relatively paltry 23 percent of U.S. households used wood. Wood use subsequently declined to 10 percent in 1950 and has remained a little-used fuel at the national level ever since.

Wood Reigned Supreme as a Heating Fuel on Reservations, But Was Rarely Used Nationally

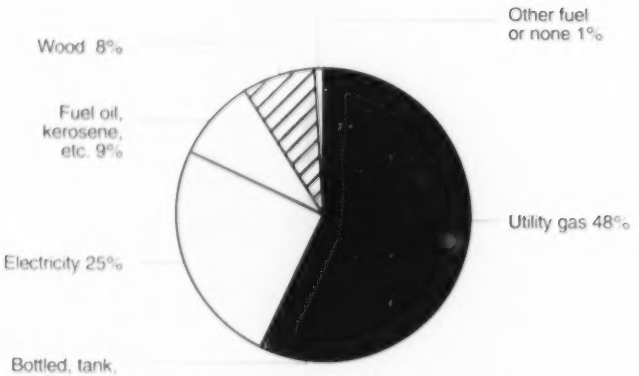
Distribution of occupied housing units, by primary fuel used for house heating: 1990



American Indian Households on Reservations



All U.S. Households



American Indian Households Living Off Reservations

Reservation Recap — Fuels

Fuel American Indian households on reservations were most likely to use as their main home heating source, by reservation with 500 or more American Indian households: 1990 (percent using it is in parenthesis)

All reservations and trust lands	**Wood (34%)**
Acoma Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	Wood (39%), Bgas (31%)
Blackfeet Reservation, MT	Ugas (42%)
Cattaraugus Reservation, NY	Bgas (38%)
Cheyenne River Reservation, SD	Bgas (57%)
Colorado River Reservation, AZ–CA	Elect. (53%)
Colville Reservation, WA	Wood (56%)
Crow Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	Bgas (35%), Ugas (26%), Elect. (25%)
Devils Lake Sioux Reservation, ND	Elect. (46%)
Eastern Cherokee Reservation, NC	Wood (63%)
Flathead Reservation, MT	Elect. (42%)
Fort Apache Reservation, AZ	Bgas (43%), Wood (38%)
Fort Belknap Reservation and Trust Lands, MT	Ugas (34%), Bgas (30%)
Fort Berthold Reservation, ND	Bgas (48%)
Fort Hall Reservation and Trust Lands, ID	Elect. (51%)
Fort Peck Reservation, MT	Ugas (64%)
Gila River Reservation, AZ	Elect. (31%), Bgas (28%)
Hoopa Valley Reservation, CA	Wood (82%)
Hopi Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ	Coal (37%), Wood (33%)
Isleta Pueblo, NM	Ugas (47%)
Jicarilla Apache Reservation, NM	Ugas (79%)
Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation and Trust Lands, WI	Bgas (55%)
Laguna Pueblo and Trust Lands, NM	Ugas (41%), Bgas (29%)
Lake Traverse (Sisseton) Reservation, ND–SD	Elect. (52%)
Leech Lake Reservation, MN	Fuel oil (37%)
Menominee Reservation, WI	Bgas (54%)
Mescalero Apache Reservation, NM	Bgas (62%)
Mississippi Choctaw Reservation and Trust Lands, MS	Bgas (34%), Wood (31%), Elect. (30%)
Navajo Reservation and Trust Lands, AZ–NM–UT	Wood (57%)
Nez Perce Reservation, ID	Wood (48%), Elect. (45%)
Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Trust Lands, MT–SD	Elect. (65%)
Oneida (West) Reservation, WI	Ugas (39%)
Osage Reservation, OK	Ugas (64%)
Papago Reservation, AZ	Wood (38%), Elect. (34%)
Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ	Ugas (93%)
Pine Ridge Reservation and Trust Lands, NE–SD	Bgas (60%)
Red Lake Reservation, MN	Elect. (44%), Wood (33%)
Rosebud Reservation and Trust Lands, SD	Bgas (51%)
St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, NY	Fuel oil (74%)
Salt River Reservation, AZ	Elect. (64%)
San Carlos Reservation, AZ	Ugas (34%)
Standing Rock Reservation, ND–SD	Bgas (69%)
Turtle Mountain Reservation and Trust Lands, ND–SD	Bgas (39%), Elect. (33%)
Uintah and Ouray Reservation, UT	Elect. (32%), Bgas (30%)
Warm Springs Reservation and Trust Lands, OR	Elect. (58%)
White Earth Reservation, MN	Fuel oil (38%)
Wind River Reservation, WY	Bgas (42%)
Yakima Reservation and Trust Lands, WA	Elect. (73%)
Zuni Pueblo, AZ–NM	Wood (72%)

Notes:

- If two or more fuels are listed, it means they statistically tied for most commonly used.
- **Bgas** stands for bottled, tank, or LP gas.
- **Ugas** stands for utility gas.
- **Elect.** stands for electricity.
- **Fuel oil** category includes kerosene.

The table at left shows the most commonly used home heating fuel on each of the 48 larger reservations. If two or more fuels are listed, it means they statistically tied for most common.

More information:

Detailed Housing Characteristics, American Indian and Alaska Native Areas, Series 1990 CH-2-1A. For sale by U.S. Government Printing Office. Stock No. 003-024-07623-3. $44.

Contacts:

Housing of American Indians on reservations —
Robert Bonnette
301-763-8553

Statistical Briefs —
Robert Bernstein
301-457-1221

This Brief is one of a series that presents information of current interest. It examines data from the 1990 census. A complete description of statistical quality and limitations is included in the above-mentioned report.

Bureau of the Census **Statistical Brief**

Housing of American Indians on Reservations — Structural Characteristics

Like the housing of the Nation as a whole, the housing of American Indians on reservations comes in a variety of ages and forms. But the mix is considerably different.

This is one of a series of Briefs that uses data collected in the 1990 Census of Population and Housing to examine housing characteristics of American Indian households on reservations and their associated trust lands. The term "American Indian households" includes all housing units where the householder has identified himself or herself as American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut.

This Brief looks at two different structural characteristics of homes — their age (the proportion that were either new or old) and type (the percentage that were single-family, mobile homes, or located in multiunit structures).

There are 314 reservations and trust lands in the United States. Trust lands are property associated with a particular American Indian reservation or tribe, held in trust by the Federal Government. In this Brief, the term "reservation" also includes trust lands.

On reservations, new housing was relatively widespread ....

Homes built between 1985 and March 1990 were considered "new." As the graph below shows, American Indian households on reservations were far more likely than the typical U.S. household to live in new units.

Among the larger reservations (those with 500 or more American Indian households), new homes were most prevalent on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, AZ, where they comprised *well over half* of all American Indian homes.

.... and old homes were rare.

American Indian households on reservations were only about half as likely as all households nationally to live in an "old" home; that is, one built before 1940. (See graph below.) However, there were a few reservations where old housing was much more common. One example was the Isleta Pueblo, NM, where over one-quarter of American Indian households lived in such homes.

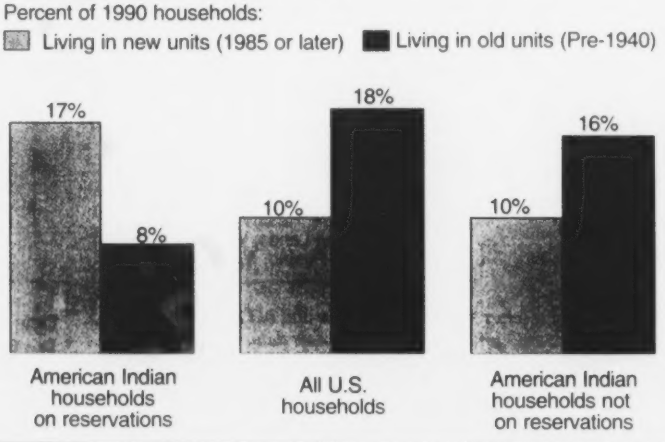
Single-family homes were even more prevalent on reservations than elsewhere.

More than three-quarters of American Indian households on reservations resided in one-family houses, higher than the 70 percent of all U.S. households and far greater than the 60 percent of American Indian households living off reservations.

On three large reservations (all in the Southwest), the proportion for American Indian households topped 90 percent. Pascua Yaqui, AZ, at 98 percent, led the way. At the other extreme was the Cattaraugus Reservation, NY, at 53 percent.

New Homes Versus Old Homes

Percent of 1990 households:



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